

Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers

Year 6

Autumn Term

This term we will be learning the following things. Here are some useful hints and tips for helping at home!

Overview of Learning

Ideas for Learning at Home

English



At the start of the year, the class will be exploring 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt – a heart-warming picture book about a young boy, Duncan, opening his box of crayons to discover angry letters about the colours quitting! They will use this story to write a persuasive speech to encourage the crayons to join him again. The children will also watch the short video 'Alma' that tells the story of a little girl who ventures into town and is drawn to a shop window by a familiar looking doll. This video will be used to write a narrative and a newspaper report

Our first class novel for this term is 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin. This exciting story follows a cabin boy, Syms Covington, who has landed the job of a lifetime on Charles Darwin's Beagle. When he is separated from the crew during a storm and ends up shipwrecked on a Galapagos island, he makes a discovery that could change the world! The children will be using this novel to write their own recounts, extended sci-fi narratives and non-chronological reports.

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home. Ask them about what they are reading and what they are enjoying about the books they are reading at school and independently.

Maths



Place Value: Represent, partition and know value of digits up to 8-digits; find 1, 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000 and 100,000 more and less; compare and order numbers up to 8-digits; round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000; find increases and decreases through zero and find differences between numbers, including negative numbers.





Position and Direction: Read and plot coordinates in all four quadrants; translate and reflect using coordinates.







Four Operations: Add and subtract whole numbers beyond 1,000,000; confidently use short and long multiplication and division; use effective approximation and inverse calculations to check answers.



Statistics and Circles: Understand and interpret dual bar charts, line charts and pie charts; understand and solve problems involving circles; calculate the mean.

Fractions: Understand and use square, cube and prime numbers; use common factors to simplify; use common denominators; compare and order fractions; add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers; multiply fractions by integers and fractions; divide a fraction by an integer; find fractions of amounts.

Please encourage your child to keep practising their arithmetic skills with the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will use these in all areas of our maths and knowing facts off by heart will make it easier! They can also continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars to help with their multiplication and division recall speed. Each week, your child will complete a short arithmetic test, similar to the arithmetic paper they will do as part of the SATs. They will bring this home so that you can see the kinds of questions they will be expected to answer. Please discuss with them areas they are confident with and those that feel that they need to develop. You should see an increase in their scores as the term goes on.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Science</p>  | <p>In our first topic, the children will understand how living things can be classified into groups scientifically. They will build on their prior knowledge of vertebrates and invertebrates and learn how to subdivide these groups further using similarities and differences to classify living things. They will learn about the work of scientist Carl Linnaeus and will explore 2 further classification groups: microbes and fungi. The children will learn about both good and bad bacteria and will be investigating the best conditions for growing mould.</p> <p>Our second science topic is about evolution. The children will recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. They will learn that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents; and identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.</p> | <p>This website has a variety of simple experiments you could do at home:</p> <p>http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/moldy-apples/</p> |
| <p>History</p>  | <p>The children will be carrying out a local history study of Hurworth. Using a range of sources, they will investigate its earliest known origins and settlements and trace its history through time, linking it to significant events, periods and changes in British history. The children will research the life and work of one of Hurworth's most famous residents, William Emerson (1701-1782). They will find out about the cottage weaving industry that used to exist in the village and how it declined due to the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the advent of the railways in the 19th century. We will then look at some of the more recent events in Hurworth's history, including the 2 world wars, and bring our research up to the present day.</p> | <p>If you have any family history linked to Hurworth, please share this with your child. This could be about places, people or events from the life of grandparents and parents. We would be very interested to hear about it.</p> |
| <p>Geography</p>  | <p>This term the children will be studying biomes and climate zones. We will start the topic by exploring the three main climate zones – polar, temperate and tropical. The children will then explore the world's biomes and how different factors can affect these large ecosystems. The children will also identify how biomes are being threatened and damaged by human activity and discuss ideas to reduce this.</p> | <p>Can your child tell you about the different climate zones and biomes around the world? Maybe discuss with them how we can help to protect these ecosystems.</p> |
| <p>Art & Design</p>  | <p>The focus for Year 6 during the Autumn term is 'landscapes with staffage'. At the start of this topic, the children will explore relevant artists, responding to their artwork, and experiment with foreshortening, using perspective to create the illusion of an object receding into the distance and thinking about the appearance of objects. Finally, they will create and evaluate their own landscape.</p> | <p>If your child has enjoyed creating their own landscape, maybe they could create their own at home. Could they teach a younger sibling (or you) how to create a landscape with staffage?</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Design & Technology</p>  | <p>This term our focus will be frame structures. The class will start by investigating structures and evaluating existing structures. They will use this to develop a design brief and sketch some initial ideas for their product. After designing their product, the children will experiment with making techniques. When they have finished making their product, they will evaluate their final product.</p> | <p>Can you talk to your child about what they are designing and creating at school? Maybe they could design something similar to make at home..</p> |
| <p>RE</p>  | <p>This term, the class will explore Hinduism. They will use their knowledge to explain why Hindus want to be good. The children will also be exploring why some people believe in God and some people do not.</p> | <p>Can your child tell you any facts they have learnt about Hinduism?</p> |
| <p>PE</p>  | <p>In our PE lessons over the course of the term, the class will be learning with teachers and coaches. They will focus on rounders, football, tag rugby and badminton. Selected children will also be going swimming during Autumn 1.</p> | <p>Children should come dressed in PE kit every Thursday. We will be outside in all weathers (within reason) so a waterproof coat, hat and gloves are advised as well please.</p> |
| <p>PSHE</p>  | <p>At the start of the term, the class will explore what our Human Rights are, what democracy is and how the democratic process works in the UK. Next half term, Year 6 will learn about biological changes that happen to males and females during puberty and how puberty can cause physical and emotional changes.</p> | <p>We will be sending a more detailed letter about the topics and issues we will be covering as part of our relationships and sex education lessons. Please talk openly with your child about any of these issues and please contact us if you have any further questions or require any additional advice about supporting your child.</p> |
| <p>Music</p>  | <p>This year, the children will be developing their skills in reading music and playing brass instruments. This will be led by the Durham Music Service. They will be listening carefully to each other's performances and offering helpful feedback. Later in the term, they will be exploring harmony in singing. Once a week, the children will be part of a singing assembly where they will learn about the dimensions and genres of music, and learn songs from different genres, and songs linked to our school values.</p> | <p>Can your child tell you what it means to sing in harmony? Maybe they could give you an example!</p> |
| <p>Computing</p>  | <p>The class will be using Purple Mash to explore coding. This will include designing and making games with different variables and functions, understanding the different options of user input and being able to test and debug programs. In the second half term, Year 6 will be exploring how to blog effectively – writing their own blog posts and commenting appropriately on others' blog posts. The children will also be revising their understanding of online safety, including their rights and responsibilities in this area. The focus this term is how they can create a positive online presence and how to address online bullying.</p> | <p>Please talk openly and often to your child about the importance of behaving respectfully and responsibly online and protecting their own and others' private information. Follow us on Twitter and/or Facebook for regular updates about keeping your child safe online.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>French</p>  | <p>In French, the children will start by recapping and learning some of the key phonemes to facilitate accurate pronunciation. The children will also learn the nouns and determiners for ten school subjects in French. They will learn how to talk about the subjects they like and dislike and what day and time they study various subjects.</p> | <p>Encourage your child to practise their French at home by teaching you! There are lots of French games and activities on the BBC website www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</p> |
| <p>Trips, Experiences and Enrichment</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teesside University (PSHE) • Walk around Hurworth (History) • Dorman Museum (Science/Design and Technology) • Pantomime | |

Within school we have 6 values: **Kindness, Respect, Resilience, Fairness, Teamwork** and **Ambition**.
These are interwoven through our curriculum and everyday practice.